Clearing the dues of fertilizer companies

4017. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether faced with major shortage scenario, his Ministry has asked Government to immediately allot Rs. 10,000 crore to clear the dues of fertilizer companies and inter-ministerial note circulated has pointed out that uncertainly in the fertilizer industry is affecting their working capital and production would be affected;

(b) whether Agriculture Ministry also has supported the move as farmers desperately need fertilizer ahead of the Kharif sowing season; and

(c) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The matter regarding pending subsidy dues is constantly engaging the attention of Government. An allocation of total Rs. 22,451.01 crore has been made under BE 2007-08, which will be partly used to pay the dues to the different fertilizer companies. Government will endeavour to provide additional funds during the course of the year as required to meet the current year's requirement.

Decontrolling sugar industry

†4018. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: SHRI
RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that decision to decontrol the sugar industry from Government control was taken during last years;

(b) if so, when this decision was announced;

(c) whether it is also a fact that at present Government have sought the opinion of an expert Committee to decontrol sugar industry from Government control; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when Government are likely to receive such opinion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government decided on 5th February, 2002 to effect complete decontrol of sugar after operationalisation of futures/forward trading in sugar in 2002-03.

(c) and (d) The Government have decided to set up a Group of Experts for examining the sugar economy in the light of the following and for coming up with options available for action required.

(i) the present regulations and controls, production and consumption patterns, overall agricultural growth and the food security scenario;

(ii) the augmentation in sugarcane crushing and refining capacities, and the need to tap the emerging opportunities in the energy opportunities in the energy and cogeneration sectors; and

(iii) sustainability considerations, keeping in view, particularly, the water intensive nature of sugarcane cultivation and the need for enhancing efficiencies in irrigation systems.

Supply of Wheat in Grain Market

†4019. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that supply of Wheat in the Grain Markets of the country has been lesser than the last year's supply;

(b) if so, the details in the regard and whether it is also a fact that minimum support price of wheat for current year has been fixed more than that of last years's price;

(c) whether It Is also a fact that yield of wheat is more this year in comparison to last year's yield; and

(d) If so, the reasons for lesser Inflow of wheat In the grain markets?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.